



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Robert W. Golledge, Jr.
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

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Contact: Vanessa Gulati

617-626-1119

Romney Administration Announces \$11.8 Million in Self-Help and Urban Self-Help Grants

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Secretary Robert W. Golledge, Jr. announced today, on behalf of the Romney Healey Administration, over \$11.8 million dollars in Self-Help and Urban Self-Help grants for 33 communities across the Commonwealth. These grants assist communities in protecting land for recreational use or natural resource protection. The Urban Self-Help and Self-Help programs are administered by the Division of Conservation Services within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

“We are very pleased to be sending these funds to such a wide range of deserving cities. These dollars will make a real difference in places like Worcester and Springfield, adding to ongoing urban renewal initiatives and funding vital recreation and open space programs,” said Lieutenant Governor Healey.

“These grants will assist communities in protecting open space and creating recreational facilities throughout the Commonwealth,” said Golledge. “It is extremely important to support our cities and towns, to protect important resources, and to construct and improve facilities such as tennis courts, ballfields and playgrounds.”

The Self-Help Program was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions in acquiring land for natural resources and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Land acquired may include wildlife habitat, hiking trails, historic or cultural resources, water resources or forest and farm land. This year 12 communities were awarded grant funding.

The Urban Self-Help Program was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Projects that are developed for outdoor recreation, whether active or passive, are considered for funding over a two year cycle. Grants are available for the acquisition of land and the construction, restoration or rehabilitation of land for park and outdoor recreation. The Urban Self-Help program awarded grants to 21 communities in this grant round.

The selection system for both programs includes an interagency review and rating of each project and an evaluation of the community's commitment to sustainable development by the Office of Commonwealth Development.

For more information on the grant program please visit EOE's Division of Conservation Services website: <http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/>.

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Attached is a list of communities receiving grants and a brief description of each project

Self-Help Grants			
Municipality	Project Name	Project Description	Grant Award Amount
Ashburnham	Russell Hill	In vicinity of Forest Legacy/DCR S. Monadnock Plateau Project. Town hopes to re-route Midstate Trail onto property & off land threatened by development. Located within BioMap Natural Supporting Landscape.	\$200,000
Belchertown	Scarborough Brook Conservation Area	Property protects Lawrence Swamp, a public water supply for Belchertown & Amherst, entirely within the Living Waters Critical Supporting Watershed. Home to 1 threatened plant and partially within BioMap Core Habitat.	\$367,200
Carver	Cole Property	Frontage on Winnetuxet River; entire property within BioMap Core Habitat, 2 rare species, high yield aquifer, cranberry bogs & vernal pools.	\$500,000
Dennis	Paddock Farm	Latest project to add to protected land around Scargo Lake (previous LWCF & SH). Possible to extend existing beach, Dennis Conservation Trust contributing \$\$ and will hold a CR.	\$500,000
Erving	Giniusz Property	Erving's first conservation acquisition is a creative solution to a project that was first proposed a few years ago. At nearly 200 acres and including a house, the project was finally acceptable to the current owner by having the town purchase 167 acres	\$145,600
Groton	Surrenden Farm	Part of a \$19.4 million, 360-acre project undertaken by Groton, The Trust for Public Land, and the Groton Land Trust to protect just one of the several properties owned by the late Marion D. Campbell. Town plans to continue agricultural use.	\$500,000
Ipswich	Great Neck Estuary	Great Neck is a coastal drumlin located within the largest network of inter-tidal river estuaries in New England. Lies within Parker River/Essex Bay ACEC. Includes federally endangered & threatened birds (Red Tern, Eagle, Piping Plover) and hosts neo-tropical migratory birds traveling the Atlantic Flyway. Anadromous and catadromous fish also depend on this exceptionally diverse combination of natural communities.	\$500,000
Ipswich	Lower Ipswich River Project	Larger parcel of land unsuitable for development along Ipswich River includes 1/2 mile of frontage on river, river is home to one rare specie.	\$61,600

Newburyport	Wet Meadows	City hopes to add another 126 acres to last year's joint project with Newbury & nonprofit partners to protect the Common Pastures. Abuts 175 acres protected land, goal is to protect 1000 acres. BioMap Core Habitat, 3 rare species.	\$205,000
Northampton	Turkey Hill	City hopes to add to 500-acre conservation lands. Property includes vernal pools, have photos of bobcat, fisher cat, coyote & more on site (student project). Former gravel pit to be revegetated.	\$452,100
Peabody	Sidney's Pond	Acquire 30 acres on shores of Sidney Pond. Abuts the Peabody Golf Course (USH funded) & Cedar Grove Cemetery. Archaeologically sensitive land.	\$408,000
Provincetown	Jimmy's Pond	Includes part of shore of Jimmy's Pond: Pond, cranberry bog, quaking bog, marsh, meadow & shrub & tree swamp habitats. Land is within BioMap Core Habitat & Priority Habitat with 6 listed species. CR to be held by Provincetown Land Trust.	\$177,060
Worcester	Ball Property	City working w/Mass Audubon & Greater Worcester Land Trust to add 15 acres to Broad Meadow Sanctuary (previous LWCF site). BioMap Core Habitat; links sanctuary to Blackstone Bikeway; implements EOE's 5 Cities Urban Open Space Initiative.	\$500,000
Totals			\$4,516,560

Urban Self-Help Grants

MUNICIPALITY	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	Grant Amount (FY07)	Grant Amount (FY08)
Amesbury	Salisbury Mill Park	Renovation of a 1.9 acre park to include a creation of a new park leading to Amesbury Carriage Museum and Heritage Visitors Center; walkway reconstruction, drainage, electrical upgrades, landscaping and site amenities.	\$200,000	\$0
Barnstable	Bismore Park Renovation Project	This project will create a new granite paved harborwalk, construct an underground filtration and leaching system to collect and redirect stormwater, improve restroom and visitor service facilities, provide new street furnishings, and reconstruct the existing parking lots.	\$48,600.00	\$451,400.00
Boston	Dennis Street Park	The grant will enable a passive area to be created with a pathway system, lighting, benches and picnic tables, curbing, and fencing. The passive area will include a water play feature as well as the ability to allow for staging of community events.	\$0	\$319,000.00
Cambridge	Father Callanan Playground	The park renovation will include replacing the pressure treated wood play structure, addressing safety and access issues, developing a play structure with swings and a waterplay area. It will also include a nearby and completely enclosed play area dedicated to younger children and toddlers, which will feature its own play structure and waterplay.	\$0	\$214,464.00

Chelsea	Adamski Park	The project will develop two play structures, benches, rubber safety surfaces, drinking fountain and decorative lighting, planters with trees and other greenery, granite blocks with local art etched on them, and a refurbished Father Adamski sign.	\$0	\$222,700.00
Easthampton	Nonotuck Park Baseball Hub	The project will reconstruct five baseball fields correcting a poorly aligned and inconsistently graded field. The area will also hold a concession stand.	\$22,050.00	\$222,950.00
Fall River	North Park	The project will include removing all existing pavement and reestablishing the poured concrete walkways, turf areas, and planting of shade trees. Benches would be placed to line the walkways, and areas for beds of perennial and annual plants.	\$0	\$175,000.00
Fitchburg	Coolidge Park Renovations	The project will expand the current play area, improve and realign the entrance drive with formalized curbing and parking, improve the storm drainage system, and stabilize the bank and remove invasive species and select vegetation.	\$47,600	\$452,400
Framingham	Tercentennial Park	Phase III of this project will continue to upgrade the pedestrian corridors, remove unneeded sections of former roads and parking areas, improve the quality of landscaping, install new site furnishing, create gathering areas, install drinking fountains and pedestrian alert stations, upgrade stormwater management approach, and install interpretive signage.	\$18,000.00	\$234,000.00
Greenfield	Wedgewood Gardens	The project proposes to acquire Wedgewood Gardens, a 14.8 acre parcel running along the Green River adjacent to Main Street in downtown Greenfield, to create public access to the Green River, for flood control, and to extend the town's existing bike trail into the downtown commercial district.	\$300,000	
Lawrence	Misserville Skate Park	The project will upgrade and improve the playground for the Leonard School, including a basketball court and grassy play yard, extend the Spicket Riverwalk along and around the site, and create a skate park, the first in the city. This is part of their Urban River Visions plan.	\$0	\$377,763.00
Lowell	Shedd Park Renovation	This project will install an aquatic spray park, play structures, a 50 car parking lot with accessible spaces adjacent to the new spray park, upgrade bathroom facilities and provide drinking fountains, upgrade lighting and site furnishings, and landscape to provide additional shade.	\$0	\$500,000.00
New Bedford	Ben Rose Baseball Field	This project will install state of the art lighting, install surveillance cameras, a water feature, benches for the players, and bleachers.	\$0	\$500,000.00
Somerville	Community Path Extension and Park	The project will extend the Somerville Community Path from its current terminus at Cedar Street to Central Street and develop a new, passive "Greenway Park". The Community Path is a part of the Minuteman Trail.	\$0.00	\$192,104.00
Springfield	Acquisition of Loon Pond Beach	This project will acquire two parcels of land totaling 4.27 acres. The two parcels are contiguous to each other and comprise 22.5% of the shoreline of Loon Pond. This project abuts two other city-owned sites.	\$437,500	
Springfield	Blunt Park Improvements	The proposed improvements include the complete renovation of the six existing tennis courts.	\$0	\$140,000.00

Springfield	Marshall Roy Park Improvements	Proposed improvements include a new restroom facility, renovations to four proposed ball diamonds, new playground, and expanded parking lot. A new handicap accessibility bituminous path will be installed from the parking lot to the restrooms. Shade Tree, a new 3.5 foot fence, irrigation, and renovated grass area will complement the new backstops, player benches, safety fencing for the player benches, and new trash receptacles.	\$0	\$441,000.00
Springfield	Construction of Treetop Park	Phase I of this project includes site clearing and preparation, all site utilities, storm drainage, one soccer field, perimeter fencing, 46 car parking lot, players benches, trash receptacles and wood guard rail fencing. Phase II will include irrigation of a soccer field, a restroom facility, small pavilion, and children's play area.	\$0	\$500,000.00
Wakefield	Colonel Connolly Park	The proposed renovation will improve the walking/jogging path and create a new sidewalk along the park's edge, handicapped parking spaces will be relocated, an accessible water bubble will be added, fences will be removed to create larger open spaces, and a bathhouse will be demolished to improve the vista.	\$0	\$41,083.00
Worcester	Winslow Park	This project will include a large gathering/audience space, a natural play area, space for community art, gardens, and a location for a memorial to those killed in the neighborhood.	\$500,000.00	\$0
Worcester	Rockwood Field Renovation	This project will renovated the softball field and improve the Little League field. Walking paths, benches, a new ADA accessible parking lot, utility upgrades, wood guardrail, tree planting, and signage will be added.	\$0	\$500,000.00
Totals			\$1,873,750.00	\$5,483,864.00